

ART 34 AMDT

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Description

"Separate billing of private and service-related calls on mobile
telephones"

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The invention relates to methods and devices for billing a call made by a user of a mobile radio terminal via the mobile radio terminal and a mobile radio network.

10 Mobile radio terminals (mobile telephones / cell phones) are frequently used partly for private calls and partly for service-related calls, which for correct billing requires separate invoicing for private and service-related phone calls (voice calls and short messages, etc).

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To date the problem has been solved in various ways. Firstly the customer could carry two mobile telephones with him, one for service-related calls and one for private calls, and hence receives two invoices. Furthermore it is possible to make service-related and
20 private calls with one mobile radio terminal and to manually mark private calls and service-related calls on the monthly invoice, and where appropriate to settle up with the employer. Furthermore, mobile radio network operators offer a mobile radio card containing two mobile radio subscriber identities, making possible an invoice
25 split up in accordance with the two mobile radio subscriber identities (and hence split up by service-related calls and private calls), but this requires that the telephone is switched off between a service-related call and a private call, and then switched on again, so that it can log on with the respective other mobile radio
30 subscriber identity. Furthermore it is possible for a mobile radio subscriber to carry with him just one mobile telephone but two mobile radio subscriber identity cards and to swap these as appropriate. However, these approaches are inconvenient.

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WO 92/19078 discloses a new logon of a mobile radio terminal with new identities (IMSI/MSISDN) on the instructions of a mobile radio subscriber in order to cause a billing for this new identity, and therefore does not require information to be transmitted as to

5 whether a call is to be billed for a subscriber as service-related or private, to a mobile radio network or storage there of such information.

The object of this invention is to permit separate billing and hence invoicing as ergonomically and efficiently as possible for private and service-related calls. The object is achieved in each case by the subject matters of the independent claims.

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The invention very efficiently permits separate billing for private and service-related calls. To this end an entry made by a user of a mobile radio terminal is sent to a billing center of a mobile radio network operator before, after or during a call using for example a softkey (key assignable by software, or touchscreen, etc.)

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indicating the service-related or private nature of the current or last call by short message (SMS, MMS, IMS), USSD or in another manner. The statement contained in the message as to the private or service-related nature of the current or last call is here assigned

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to the other billing data (duration of call, international roaming charges, special tariffs, etc.; mobile radio subscriber identity MSISDN/IMSI, etc.). In the monthly invoice the indicator stored for

this purpose as to whether the call was service-related or private can for each call made be used to include this call in the private

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or the service-related part of the invoice, so that at the end of the month the mobile radio terminal user receives an invoice divided into two parts showing his private and service-related calls, if appropriate with a corresponding pro-rata split of the basic subscription charges.

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Further features and advantages of the invention are apparent from the following description of an exemplary embodiment on the basis of the drawing.

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Figure 1 shows a user 1 of a mobile radio terminal 3 having an entry key 3, via which mobile radio terminal 3 the subscriber 1 can make a call via the air interface 4 and a mobile radio network 5, 6 indicated by a base station 6 to other users (not shown) of mobile radio terminals.

If the mobile radio terminal 3 (for example the S35 mobile telephone) has one or more softkeys 2 assignable by software, one or more softkeys can be assigned for entries by the user 1 of the terminal 3 concerning the service-related or private nature of the current or most recent call 4. The softkey can for example be a key on the entry keypad of the mobile telephone 3 in the form of a rocker with a left and right contact switch, whereby the right contact switch is assigned as "private" and the left contact switch as "service-related". The service-related or private nature can for example be entered after keying in the directory number to be dialed by correspondingly pressing the entry key or entry keys 2. A message representing the service-related or private nature of the current or most recently made call can be sent by the mobile radio terminal 3 as a short message SMS, MMS, etc., USSD or in another manner to an address (for example a short message center 7) of the mobile radio network 5,6, from where it is forwarded to a billing calculation server 8 of the mobile radio network to enable the monthly charges to be calculated. Besides standard information (identity of the subscriber identity module in the mobile radio terminal 3, duration of the call, tariff, roaming charge, etc.), details of the service-related or private nature of the current or most recently made call are also stored in a list (billing record for this subscriber 1 or for his subscriber identity module) in the billing calculation server 8. The next time an (e.g. monthly) invoice is produced, the operator of the mobile radio network 5,6 splits the call charge information stored for a user 1 in the billing calculation center 8 in accordance with the information stored on the service-related or private nature and produces two part-invoices for service-related and private calls for the invoice for the mobile radio subscriber 1. In this case the basic subscription charge can also for example be split pro-rata or equally.